

Strange lines

AUSTRALIAN scientists are baffled by five vast parallel lines revealed by satellite photographs of the Nullarbor Desert.

What makes the mystery even more intriguing is that the lines, 400km long and 10km wide, seem to disappear at night when most geological information is obtained through thermal-imaging using infra-red technology.

The Nullarbor Desert, which runs from central South Australia to central Western Australia, has long been considered a featureless expanse of little interest save for some spectacular underground limestone cave networks.

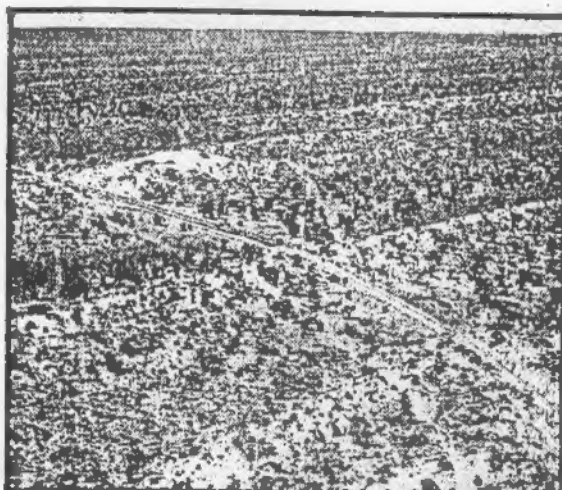
However, interest in the area is set to blossom following the recent discovery of the lines by a group of scientists from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, who were studying day-time satellite images taken in the area in 1992.

A senior CSIRO scientist, Ian Barton, made the discovery public last week at a Sydney conference on remote sensing.

"Night-time is when these things are generally most obvious," he says. "It is strange we can only see them during the day. This is very much a mystery."

Geological faults many

Satellite photographs have revealed mysterious features in Australia's Nullarbor Desert.



● The vast, secretive Nullarbor.

kilometres long have been recorded in other Australian deserts but they are all thinner and can be seen by satellites at night.

Fred Prata, of the CSIRO atmospheric research division, says the lines may represent differences in soil structure or colour, although he admits that at this point scientists just don't know.

Suggestions of extra-terrestrials at work, or hoaxers intending the lines to be taken as such, soon surfaced although one Melbourne-based expert in such matters

said it was highly unlikely the lines were the work of hoaxers.

The man, who does not want to be named, was involved in the study of the hoax "corn circle" phenomenon in Britain. He says it is highly unlikely Australian hoaxers have been at work in the desert.

"To make lines this size you'd need an army."

He also doubts that extra-terrestrials or UFOs are responsible "but the absence of proof is not proof of absence."

— NZPA

Photos of kidnap aliens on show

PA London

Photographic evidence of what were claimed to be the first pictures of alien beings was being presented at a convention yesterday.

An American paranormal researcher, Mr Jon Beckford, displayed pictures of what he believes show aliens who regularly visit Earth to temporarily kidnap inhabitants for examination.

The picture evidence matched drawings made worldwide by people over decades who claimed to have been abducted by out-of-world creatures, he told a meeting of the fourth annual Crop Circle Conference at Glastonbury, Somerset.

His own pictures of a flat-headed grey creature were taken in the High Sierras of California in 1980 at a campsite 160km from Lake Tahoe.

The creature appears to have two large dark eyes, a long nose, a triangular face and little or no chin or mouth.

Over 14 years he has gathered pictures from other photographers that he claims mirror the "Grey."

They include a snap of a long-armed creature taken by an unnamed policeman on Ilkley Moor, Yorkshire, in 1985.

It appears to have three webbed, sausage-like fingers, and there is also a flat-topped triangular head. The policeman claimed to have been abducted while out walking and then returned to the same spot.

As he walked home, he turned to photograph the creature, which was apparently following him.

Mr Beckford runs a UFO museum in Los Angeles and investigates the unusual.

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